

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of employing a flowable indicator for characterizing skin condition, the method comprising:

applying the flowable indicator to a desired area of skin, wherein the flowable indicator includes at least one dye which changes in color or color intensity when in solution with at least one substance secreted by human skin, wherein a visual change of color or color intensity in the at least one dye is proportional to the amount of the oil present in solution, and wherein the flowable indicator is activated in response to a reaction of the flowable indicator with the at least one substance found on the skin after a period of time to effect a visually discernable change that is a visual change in the color or color intensity of the at least one dye of the flowable indicator;

comparing the visually discernable change of the activated flowable indicator to a reference to characterize skin condition, the reference relating a plurality of possible visual changes of color or color intensity of the indicator to the visual change of the indicator to characterize a skin condition of human skin due to the amount of the oil in contact with the indicator;

waiting for the flowable indicator to activate;

determining if the flowable indicator is activated; and

waiting further for the flowable indicator to activate if the user has determined that the flowable indicator is not yet activated,

wherein the flowable indicator comprises at least one dye soluble with oil found on human skin to effect the visual change of the indicator.

25.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 and further comprising determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the characterized skin condition.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 and further comprising determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the characterized skin condition.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 and further comprising providing a visual reference for comparison of the visually discernable change of the activated flowable indicator to a standardized reference point to determine skin condition.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 and further comprising determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the determined skin condition.

32.-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of employing a flowable indicator for characterizing skin condition, the method comprising:

applying the flowable indicator to a desired area of skin, wherein the flowable indicator is reactive with at least one substance secreted by the skin so that the flowable indicator visually changes [[in]] color or color intensity in response to reacting with exposure to the at least one substance and wherein, a degree of visual change of color or color intensity of the indicator is representative of the amount of oil in contact with the indicator the flowable indicator is activated in response to a reaction of the indicator with the at least one substance;

waiting for the flowable indicator to activate;

determining if the flowable indicator is activated by determining whether the flowable indicator has changed in color or color intensity;

comparing the activated flowable indicator to a reference color to characterize skin condition, the reference color being disposed on a reference relating a plurality of possible visual changes of color or color intensity of the indicator to the visual change of the indicator to

characterize a skin condition of human skin due to the amount of the oil in contact with the indicator; and

waiting further for the flowable indicator to activate if the user has determined that the flowable indicator is not yet activated,

wherein the flowable indicator comprises at least one dye soluble with oil found on human skin to effect the visual change of the indicator.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 and further comprising determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the characterized skin condition.

38.-50. (Cancelled)